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Publishers, seeking to advance the publication date, told the Kennedy family: "In all fairness to Manchester, his book has to come out first."

And Robert Kennedy, who originally had seen the book as "being put away for perhaps as much as 25 or 50 years," acquiesced, but ruled out 1968 as an election year and 1970 because "it would look like something turned out just to help me, with all the talk of running for the Presidency in 1972." So the decision was for 1967.

These political considerations, as opposed to Jackie Kennedy's reservations over passages she considers violated her personal feelings and those of her children, gave rise to much of the acrimony.

Bobby Kennedy's friends scanned the galleys with his interests admittedly in mind, but Pamela Timmins, herself, in a letter to editor Evan Thomas, suggested alterations which went beyond considerations of Jacqueline Kennedy's privacy into other areas.

Manchester got galleys with suggested changes flagged by paper clips. With this was a letter from Jackie saying the changes were needed for the sake of her children.

"The first six changes were about Lyndon Johnson's political career," the author told Murray Kempton. "Did that involve the feelings of the children?"

By the account of others, however, "about 30 of the 36 changes were references to personal things about Jackie."